

REMARKS

The application is believed in condition for allowance and the rejection of claims 1-20 over applicant's disclosed prior art Figures 11-21 in view of KIM 6,512,558, and further in view of CHRIST, JR. 6,532,147, is believed untenable at least for the following reason.

Claim 1 recites a housing including a front housing member and at least one rear housing member hingedly coupled to the front housing member, the rear housing member covering lateral and rear sides of a backlight and panel unit as a whole.

By way of example, as seen below in Figures 1a and 1b of the present application, the housing includes front housing member 19a hingedly coupled to rear housing members 18a.

Patent Application Publication Aug. 19, 2004 Sheet 1 of 20 US 2004/0160547 A1

FIG. 1A

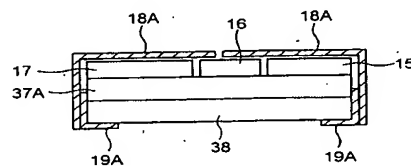
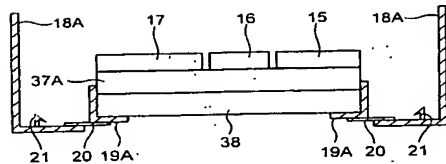


FIG. 1B



As seen by comparing Figures 1a and 1b, when the rear housing member is closed, the rear housing member covers the lateral side (near reference numeral 37a) and the rear side (covering elements 15, 16 and 17).

The position set forth in the Official Action is that applicant's disclosed prior art does not teach a housing having front and rear members coupled together via a coupling structure. KIM is offered for front and rear members coupled together. Applicant's disclosed prior art in view of KIM does not teach that the housing member is hingedly coupled together. CHRIST, Jr. is offered for this teaching.

However, CHRIST, Jr. does not appear to teach that for which it is offered, and in any event, when the claims are properly analyzed with respect to the claimed invention as a whole, the claimed invention would not have been obvious.

The Official Action offers elements 22 and 24 of CHRIST, JR. as teaching a flexible hinged connection.

However, elements 22 and 24 of CHRIST JR. are not part of a housing that receives the panel unit and the backlight.

Rather, in CHRIST, JR., the panel and backlight are solely contained within element 24. Element 22 is a base to which element 24 is connected. Such base is not part of a housing that contains the panel unit and backlight. Thus, CHRIST, JR. teaches a housing 24 and a separate base 22 that are hingedly

connected, not that that first and second parts of the housing (rear and front part) are hingedly coupled together.

Moreover, the Federal Circuit has held that in determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 USC §103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530, 218 USPQ 871 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

As disclosed on page 11, lines 2-7 of the present application, one of the objects of the present invention is to have a LCD device that has a reduced number of components and that is easily assembled.

This object is achieved at least in part by having a hinged housing. As seen in Figure 1b, the device is able to be assembled in the front housing section 19a. After assembly in the front housing section, the rear section of the housing is able to be hingedly pivoted so as to cover the side walls of the panel display and the rear of the panel display, as seen in Figure 1a.

In this manner, together with the hooked rib 21 on the rear housing, the rear housing is able to be connected to the front housing to form a completed device.

In contrast, as seen in Figure 21 of the present invention describing the prior art, two separate frames are

screwed together. The same is shown in Figure 4a of KIM, for example.

The CHRIST, Jr. reference shows an already completed housing (LCD panel 24). Although no screws are shown, the housing/LCD panel 24 is most likely screwed together the same as in Figure 21a of the present invention and Figure 4a of KIM. The completed housing is then connected to base 22, which includes the keyboard and other elements.

However, the present invention is only directed to the housing itself, not the connection of the housing to a base. In the present invention, the housing has two pieces that are hingedly connected to each other to form a completed housing. This concept is not taught or suggested by the combination of references.

Thus, when the claimed invention is properly analyzed under 35 USC §103 looking at the claimed invention as a whole, the claimed invention would not have been obvious.

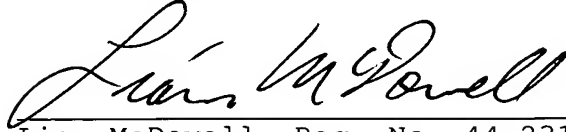
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

LM/mjr/fb